♦314♦

VS. SMEARGLE

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POCKET MONSTER SPECIAL THE SIXTH CHAPTER EMERALD

COME ON, EVERYBODY!!
FOLLOW ME!!
PUTT PUTT PUTT
PUTT PUTT PUTT
PUTT
OOPS.
WAAAAAH!! A WATERFALL!!
SHAAA
SHOOSH
WE ARE CURRENTLY OUT AT SEA...
EMERALD'S TAKING THE LEAD, WITH THE FRONTIER BRAINS FOLLOWING CLOSELY BEHIND...
HOW DID ALL THIS COME ABOUT? WELL...

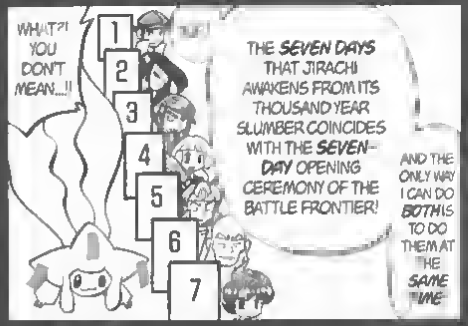
FIRST OFF, TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!
THE PHANTOM POKÉMON JIRACHI!
IT APPEARED FOR A WHILE ABOVE THE BATTLE PYRAMID JUST NOW.
PHANTOM POKÉMON...
...JIRACHI?!
WHAT IN THE WORLD?
I'VE NEVER HEARD OR SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT BEFORE!
YOU AND YOUR NONSENSE AGAIN!!
WAIT!!
I'VE HEARD ABOUT IT BEFORE...
THIS "JIRACHI"...
YOU KNOW ABOUT IT, ANABEL?!
YEAH... IT'S AN ULTRA RARE POKÉMON THAT ONLY WAKES UP ONCE IN A THOUSAND YEARS...
YUP!
IT'S CALLED A WISH POKÉMON, AND..
...IT'S SAID THAT JIRACHI CAN GRANT THE PERSON WHO CAPTURES IT ANY WISH HE OR SHE WANTS!
ANY WISH I WANT?! YOU MUST BE LYING...
KLONK
WATCH YOUR MOUTH, TUCKER! OR ARE YOU CALLING ANABEL A LIAR?
I'M SORRY, ANABEL... SPENCER!
WELL I DID SEE A FLASH OF LIGHT ABOVE THE BATTLE PYRAMID JUST NOW. BUT...
...SINCE IT IS A POKÉMON THAT ONLY AWAKENS ONCE A MILLENNIUM, EVEN IF SOMEONE HAD SEEN IT BEFORE, THEY WOULDN'T BE ALIVE TO TELL US ABOUT IT NOW...
RIGHT! AND THE RECORDS SAY THAT IT IS MERELY A LEGEND WITH LITTLE CREDIBILITY... NOBODY REALLY BELIEVES THAT IT EXISTS!
BUT IT MIGHT EXIST, RIGHT? THAT IS... ASSUMING THAT EMERALD'S TELLING THE TRUTH...
YOU STILL DON'T BELIEVE ME?!
I BELIEVE YOU.
YOU WERE ABLE TO CAPTURE DATA ABOUT JIRACHI ON THAT DEVICE OF YOURS AFTER ALL...

A POKÉDEX!
IT'S A DEVICE THAT AUTOMATICALLY SAVES THE ECOLOGICAL DATA ABOUT POKÉMON YOU HAVE CAPTURED OR MET BEFORE.
AM I RIGHT?
...
YOU'RE PRETTY INFORMED.
THE POKÉDEX HAS THE ABILITY TO...
... TRACK DOWN POKÉMON IT HAS COME ACROSS BEFORE. IT'S ABLE TO EASILY LOCATE THAT PARTICULAR POKÉMON'S HABITAT OR WHEREABOUTS
WELL, THAT ONLY WORKS ON REGULAR POKÉMON, THAT IS.
THE POKÉDEX'S TRACKING ABILITY DOESN'T REALLY WORK ON A "PHANTOM" POKÉMON LIKE JIRACHI!
THEN... HOW DO YOU INTEND TO GO AFTER THE JIRACHI THAT HAS DISAPPEARED?
IT MAY HAVE LOOKED LIKE IT VANISHED, BUT THE TRUTH IS IT'S JUST FALLEN TO THE EARTH LIKE A SHOOTING STAR.
RIGHT AROUND...
...THAT AREA THERE!
WHICH IS WHY I HAVE TO GO CAPTURE IT BEFORE IT DISAPPEARS AGAIN!
DASH
LATER!!
WAIT WAIT WAIT WAIT WAIT!
GRAB
HRUSH!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "LATER"?!
ARE YOU SAYING THE REASON WHY YOU CHALLENGED THE BATTLE FRONTIER WAS TO HIDE YOUR REAL MOTIVE? TO CAPTURE JIRACHI?!
I NEVER SAID THAT?
CONQUERING THE BATTLE FRONTIER'S MY HOBBY, Y'SEE..
...AND CAPTURING JIRACHI'S MY JOB!

?

IN OTHER WORDS, THE TIME FRAME FOR MY HOBBY AND MY JOB JUST HAPPENED TO COINCIDE, THAT'S ALL.
C-COINCIDE
YEAH

THEY SAY THAT IT AWAKENS ONCE EVERY THOUSAND YEARS, BUT...
...TO BE PRECISE, IT AWAKENS FOR SEVEN DAYS ONCE EVERY THOUSAND YEARS!
JIRACHI I MEAN...


WHAT?! YOU DON'T MEAN...!!
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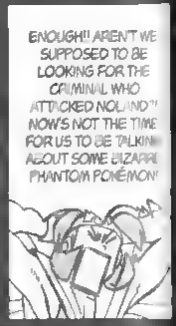
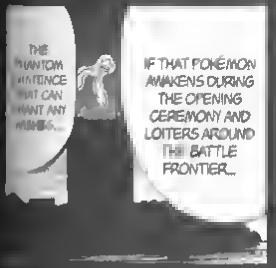
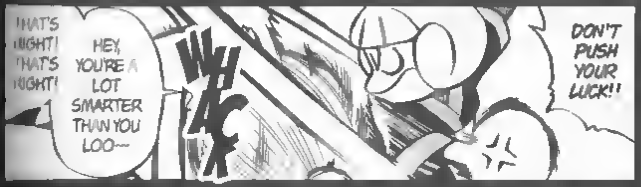
THE SEVEN DAYS THAT JIRACHI AWAKENS FROM ITS THOUSAND YEAR SLUMBER COINCIDES WITH THE SEVEN-DAY OPENING CEREMONY OF THE BATTLE FRONTIER!
AND THE ONLY WAY I CAN DO BOTH IS TO DO THEM AT THE SAME TIME!


ENOUGH!! AREN'T WE SUPPOSED TO BE LOOKING FOR THE CRIMINAL WHO ATTACKED NOLAND?! NOW'S NOT THE TIME FOR US TO BE TALKING ABOUT SOME LEGENDARY PHANTOM POKÉMON!

WAIT, TUCKER! THEY MAY BE RELATED FOR ALL WE KNOW!
WHAT


THE PHANTOM POKÉMON THAT CAN GRANT ANY WISHES...
IF THAT POKÉMON AWAKENS DURING THE OPENING CEREMONY AND LOITERS AROUND THE BATTLE FRONTIER...

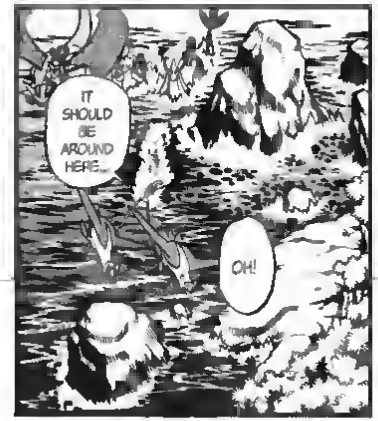
THEN IT'S ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT THERE MAY BE A BAD GUY LURKING IN THE FRONTIER, LOOKING FOR A CHANCE TO CAPTURE IT!


THAT'S RIGHT! THAT'S RIGHT!
HEY, YOU'RE A LOT SMARTER THAN YOU LOO—
WHACK
DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK!!

NEED I REMIND YOU THAT YOU'RE STILL UNDER SUSPICION? YOU COULD VERY WELL BE THE BAD GUY I WAS TALKING ABOUT!
GEE, YOU SURE ARE PARANOID

WELL, IN THAT CASE, WHY DON'T YOU GUYS JUST KEEP AN EYE ON ME THEN?

SHAAA
AND THAT WAS HOW...
...ONE DAY AFTER THE BATTLE PYRAMID...
...ALL THE FRONTIER BRAINS, EXCLUDING NOLAND, DECIDED TO TAG ALONG WITH EMERALD ON HIS SEARCH FOR JIRACHI IN ORDER TO "KEEP AN EYE" ON HIM.


IT SHOULD BE AROUND HERE...
OH!

THIS MUST BE IT!
LATIAS, LATIOS, STOP!!

HE HAS COMPLETE CONTROL OVER LATIAS AND LATIOS..
WHAT AN UNFATHOMABLE BOY... CAN'T LET OUR GUARD DOWN AROUND HIM...

WHERE ARE WE?
HMM..

AT "ARTISAN CAVE"!

I NEVER KNEW THERE WAS SUCH A PLACE IN THE BATTLE FRONTIER!
WHOOPS!

D-DON'T JUST GO IN LIKE THAT!!
BUT I'M RACING AGAINST TIME!

I STILL HAVE TO TAKE ON...
...ONE OF THEIR FACILITIES AFTER THIS!
EEH?!

CAN A PHANTOM POKÉMON REALLY BE CAPTURED SO EASILY?
YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS MINE I MUST SAY THOUGH.. THIS CAVE ISN'T A VERY PLEASANT PLACE AT ALL.

SWARM
AFTER ALL...
SWARM

IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT ANY TRESPASSERS...

...WILL BE SEVERELY DEALT WITH BY THE SMEARGLE POPULATION HERE.

DASH
DASH

HERE THEY COME!!
TMP

THERE, THERE!

DON'T MIND US!
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
WE'RE JUST PASSING THROUGH...
THAT'S ALL!
EXCUSE ME!

?!
EMERALD? YOU'RE NOT GOING TO USE YOUR USUAL WEAPON?

THAT PUPPET THING THAT CAN CALM ANY RAMPAGING POKÉMON DOWN INSTANTLY...
...BY SHOOTING BULLETS MADE FROM THE SOIL OF THEIR HOME-TOWN?

...
IT'S NOT THE POKÉMON THAT I LIKE...
...IT'S THE POKÉMON BATTLES!!
I'M STARTING TO UNDERSTAND...
...EMERALD BETTER NOW
HE SAYS THAT HE LIKES "POKÉMON BATTLES", BUT...
...IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT HE'LL TAKE ON ANYTHING THAT CROSSES HIS PATH!
THE POKÉMON THAT APPEAR DUE TO THE RULES OF EACH FACILITY...
THE VIRTUAL TRAINERS AND THEIR POKÉMON...
...AND THE POKÉMON THAT THE FRONTIER BRAINS USE...

HE'S BEEN DOING BATTLE WITHIN THE CONSTRAINTS OF A FRAMEWORK ALL THIS TIME!
HE'S JUST SOMEONE WHO PURELY ENJOYS POKÉMON BATTLES AS A SPORT!
THAT'S RIGHT! HE ONLY USED THAT WEAPON WHEN THE POKÉMON TURNED VICIOUS!
ONLY WHEN A POKÉMON LOSES CONTROL OF ITSELF AND GOES AGAINST THE RULES OF THE BATTLE DOES HE WHIP THAT WEAPON OUT TO CALM THEM DOWN!
THAT'S WHY HE'S NOT USING IT HERE
THE SMEARGLES ARE ATTACKING ON INSTINCT, SO THERE IS NO WAY HE CAN BRING THEM BACK TO THEIR SENSES, SO TO SPEAK!
SO!
HAH!
I AIN'T GONNA FIGHT YA NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS!
CUZ' WILD BATTLES WITHOUT RULES...
...DON'T INTEREST ME!!

HE'S ALREADY SO DEEP INTO THE CAVE...
THE FRONTIER BRAINS ARE HAVING A HARD TIME TRYING TO EVEN WARD OFF THE SMEARGLES' ATTACK!
BUT I'M A REPORTER...! WHEN THE PHANTOM POKÉMON JIRACHI GETS CAUGHT, I JUST HAVE TO BE THERE TO CAPTURE THAT MOMENT ON FILM! I NEED TO CATCH UP WITH HIM FAST!
ALL RIGHT!
STOMP
I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES WITH THE WALL!!
WAAAH!!
BAM
K
C
?
!!!
YOU TWO..."
AREN'T YOU THE SUDOWOODO I ACCIDENTALLY WATERED ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE OPENING CEREMONY?!
AND YOU... THE DUSCLOPS WHO WAS IN THE 134TH ROOM OF THE BATTLE PIKE?!
EMERALD SHOULDVE RETURNED THE BOTH OF YOU TO THE WILD..
DON'T TELL ME...
...YOU GUYS ARE SO FOND OF EMERALD THAT YOU FOLLOWED HIM HERE...?!
NOD!
THUD THUD THUD
TOOK YOU GUYS LONG ENOUGH! YOU'RE NOT KEEPING AN EYE ON ME AT ALL LIKE THIS, YKNOW...
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE ARRIVED AT OUR DESTINATION!

JIRACHI!

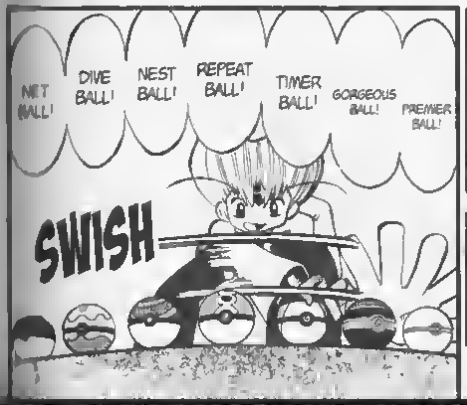
WINKLE

SLIP

SLIDE

IT'S SO BRIGHT! WHAT IS THIS?!
THAT'S THE PHANTOM POKÉMON, JIRACHI!

STOMP
ROLL
ROLL


NET BALL!
DIVE BALL!
NEST BALL!
REPEAT BALL!
TIMER BALL!
GORGEOUS BALL!
PREMIER BALL!
SWISH

WHICH ONE SHOULD I USE... CRYSTAL?

WHO'S HE TALKING TO?

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VS. SURSKIT I